

## LEAGUE ISLAND.

Impending Exposure of  
Flagrant Frauds.

## AUDACIOUS CORRUPTION

History of the Removal of the  
Philadelphia Navy Yard.

## SPOILS OF OLD METAL.

Ships' Knees Stolen and Stored in  
Bonded Warehouses.Officers Intimidated Into Silence or  
Sent to Sea.

## ROBESON'S PREDICAMENT

PHILADELPHIA, April 7, 1876.

The House Committee on Naval Affairs, Congressmen Whitcomb, Chairman, left Washington for this city at nine o'clock to-night and will meet at the Girard House to-morrow evening to begin the investigation into the affairs of the Philadelphia Navy Yard alluded to in the *HERALD* of the 28th of February, in which a summary was given of some of the disgraceful facts which awaited the Committee. Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Donovan to-day arrived from Washington, with subpoenas for some fifty witnesses in the city. The list will be supplemented day by day with such additional names as the course of the inquiry may require.

## WHAT WILL BE SHOWN

The committee propose to take testimony touching the general mismanagement of the Navy Yard, the frauds in contracts of various descriptions, the negligence of officers to attend to their duties, the employment of extra hands in election time, &c. But the specific object of their inquiry will be the circumstances attending the removal of the old Navy Yard to League Island by Nathaniel McKay, the contractor against whom charges of gross frauds were published in the *HERALD* in February, on the allegation of persons in this city alleged to be thoroughly familiar with the facts.

Mr. McKay was this evening served with a subpoena in this city, and he will be the first witness called before the committee when it begins its work to-morrow.

Below is given a brief summary of the substance of the testimony which will be heard before the Committee in the order in which it is likely to be elicited:—

## MCKAY'S CONTRACTS.

First, testimony relating to the obtaining of contracts by Nathaniel McKay. In addition to the evidence of Commodore Preble and Isaiah Hanscomb, already taken privately by the Committee in Washington, and the official records of the Navy Department, five witnesses have been summoned to appear to-morrow who, it is alleged, will prove that McKay's contracts were not only obtained by the exercise of improper influence, but were also fraudulent in themselves. These witnesses are the following:—John Rice, a well known contractor and politician of the city; John W. Lynn, a shipbuilder on the Delaware; Edward Hart, Naval Constructor at Philadelphia Navy Yard; Clark H. Wells, Commandant of the Navy Yard, and John Cochran, one of the contractors who unsuccessfully bid against McKay. The contracts of McKay included \$5,000 for removing the ordnance department to League Island, \$42,000 for removing the construction department, \$28,000 for removing the ship houses and \$15,500 for removing the engineer's department.

From the outset Mr. McKay has boasted that it would be useless for anybody to attempt to bid against him as he had the whole Navy Department at Washington at his back and the contracts would be awarded to him no matter what the competition. This had the effect intended, and to make the thing certain McKay went systematically to work to buy off such bidders as seemed likely to prove troublesome. With John W. Lynn he made a contract in writing, promising to give him a certain percentage on the gross amount of his (McKay's) contract, on condition of his agreeing not to bid against him. This Mr. Lynn, regarding competition as at any rate useless, accepted; but McKay, as soon as he had the terms in writing, abandoned his original intention of bidding for the work as a whole, and put in proposals by departments, as specified above, by which means Lynn received a percentage on the bids for the construction department only. At the same time he made overtures to other Philadelphia parties, who had the facilities for doing the work and were known as probable bidders; and to Mr. John Rice, who had received the contract for removing the walls of the yard, he made a proposition to pay \$20,000—\$5,000 in cash and the rest in instalments. But Mr. Rice, having obtained his contract through political influence of as potent a character as that wielded by McKay, felt that he was secure, and refused to sell out.

As to the fraudulent character of the contracts themselves, testimony will be adduced to show that when the contract for removing the Ordnance Department was awarded for \$5,000 everything had already been removed with the exception of two or three wheelbarrow loads, while the contract for removing the ship houses was awarded to McKay for \$35,000, in spite of the fact that Charles Martin and William H. Simpson, of this city, had offered for \$28,000 to do the same work.

## FRAUDULENT AUCTION SALES.

Second is the testimony relating to fraudulent purchases at the government auction sales. There are a host of witnesses to be examined. The principal ones will be Samuel C. Cook, auctioneer; William Rowbotham, Assistant Engineer of the navy; Hannan Newell, Assistant Chief Engineer; Peter Black, of No. 297 Columbus avenue, Boston, foreman for McKay, numerous naval officers and other employees of the yard. They will testify that at the auction sales of superfluous material at the navy yard during the months of the removal the purchases were made by a ring, composed of McKay and his agents, and that, with scarcely an exception, the material was knocked down to him at his own price. In isolated instances, where there was *bona fide* competition, material was not sold for any more than it was worth, and the only effect that this competition had, therefore, was to increase the cost to McKay. It will be in evidence, if allegations are true, that at the auction McKay instructed his employees to collect the round ship knees, &c., that were lying about the yard and pile them with the comparatively worthless stuff purchased at the auction sales, and that in this way large

amounts of government property was openly stolen by McKay.

## THEFT OF NAVY MATERIAL.

Third is the testimony relating to the theft of navy material in process of removal. The men in charge of the drays which were engaged by McKay to haul the government property in the yard to the scows employed to carry it to League Island will testify that most of this work was done in the night time, up to twelve o'clock midnight, although the testimony of the League Island watchman will show that no material was received after eight o'clock in the evening. They will also testify that McKay had the lights put out, so as to prevent the possibility of detection in his stealing, and ordered his teamsters to haul indiscriminately to his own scows and the scows employed by Reynolds, the contractor and private agent of McKay, for the removal of the material purchased at the so-called auction sales, and to the scows of McKay employed for government material. This was made worse confounded by the fact that the contracts made with the draymen placed them under the orders of Reynolds as well as McKay, and they did not know at any time which was their master. This fact aroused their suspicions and made them naturally inquisitive as to where the material was going, especially as the Queen street warehouse, in which a large amount of the so-called auction material was stored, was easy of access by drayage through the front yard of the Navy Yard—in fact, only a few blocks off. They found that many of the scows went up to the Queen street wharf, where a special drayman employed by McKay, Hugh Patton, previously a boatman under the recommendation of Councilman Owen F. Kane, of the Third ward, and also an employee of McKay inside the Navy Yard, was engaged in hauling valuable material to the Queen street warehouse.

## TESTIMONY OF WATCHMEN.

Three of the watchmen employed, one at League Island and two others at the old Navy Yard, appointed by Commodore Preble by reason of their faithful service and honorable discharge from the marine service and since discharged by orders from Washington, because of their efforts to perform their duties in protecting the property of Uncle Sam, will testify to the landing of government property, comprising iron bars, copper and other valuable material at the Greenwich Point, a half way stopping place, instead of being landed at their destination, League Island, by the scows in the employ of McKay. This material, which included iron, copper, brass, &c., was hauled by the way of Mifflin street back again to the city, and placed in the Queen street and other bonded warehouses. They will also testify that their efforts at League Island to protect the government property was overruled by their immediately superior officers under the direction of McKay. In one case the watchman at League Island was obliged to draw his musket upon McKay to resist the wanton destruction of government property by the latter and his agents. He thus alone subdued the belligerent propensities of McKay, but his removal soon after followed by orders from Washington, as was threatened by McKay at the time. The evidence of these watchmen will show, besides the stealing, the wanton destruction of government property in its removal from the scows at League Island, where the material went to; another set of draymen who will testify to having been employed by McKay and Reynolds to cart brass in large quantities from the Queen street depository to Clyde's line on the wharf, above Walnut street, for transportation to New York; long bar iron to the Reading Railroad depot, at Fruit and Willow streets, and other valuable material to the depot of the same company at Fifteenth and Callowhill streets. Witnesses will testify that while the amount paid in purchases of ship knees by McKay amounted to over \$100, thousands of dollars' worth are stored in different portions of the southwestern section of the city, and witnesses will also testify that at the time this valuable material was sold for a song. A ship load of rotten ship knees from Orville Grant was received at League Island, and upon the timber master refusing at first to receive it, because of its condition, he was threatened with vengeance at Washington, and was obliged to receive it.

## GUILEY KNOWLEDGE IN WASHINGTON.

In addition to the testimony bearing directly upon the actual stealing of McKay, there will be witnesses to prove that from first to last he was in perfect harmony with the department at Washington through Hanscomb, Chief of the Bureau of Construction, and that Secretary Robeson exercised a greater influence than either Commodore Preble or Commandant Wells. Neither of the latter, although well aware of what was going on, dared to interfere, and although on one occasion Captain Wells did have the courage to order out the marines on him when he refused to stop work on a contract that had been annulled, he had his bills passed by Naval Constructor Hart, and the department, as McKay has since boasted, paid them over the head of Wells. After the removal of Commodore Preble, McKay openly bragged that it had been done through his influence at Washington, and threatened a like fate to anybody who should dare to interfere with him. The secret of this intimacy will be disclosed to the committee by the records of contracts, auction sales, &c., for which they have issued subpoenas, and they are already in possession of the facts of Robeson's private visit to McKay in this city on the 7th and 8th of March, when arrangements were made to fix up certain papers in view of the approaching investigation.

## THE PART THAT RANDALL PLAYED.

When McKay entered upon his contracts he intended to bring his working force from New York and the East, but, as he has himself acknowledged, Congressman Randall fought him so hard that he had to give it up and employ such men as Mr. Randall recommended. There will be numerous witnesses before the committee to show that, while professing not to know McKay or to have any influence with him, a note from Mr. Randall was invariably an "open sesame" to the contractor's payroll, and that when an applicant for work had been turned away by his foreman, on stating to McKay that Randall had sent him he was immediately offered a position. Names and dates also be furnished the committee, showing the intimacy existing between the Navy Department and the democratic Congressmen, and proving his agency in stocking the yard with extra hands at election time.

## XENOPHOBUS OF THE NAVY YARD OFFICERS.

The testimony touching the negligence of the Navy Yard officers will be full and explicit. Some of these are known to have been directly in the pay of McKay, and others were so influenced by his usual threat that he would have them sent to sea that they did not dare to report what they knew. There will be witnesses to prove that he sent baskets of wine to certain officers as acknowledgment of their services, while to Naval Constructor Hart, as already recorded, he presented a handsome watch. A witness wanted to borrow government wheels and asked Boes Drayman Ford, employed by the government, for permission to use. One wheel had no tire, and Ford said, "Come, I'll see Hart, the naval constructor." The witness had made a proposition

that he would have them fitted out at his own expense. They went to Hart's office. Ford called the witness in and asked Mr. Hart if he could have the loan of the wheels if he would have them repaired at his own expense. Hart said "Yes." Then Mr. Ford said the tire had dropped off, and it could not be found, and he told Hart he thought Mr. Reynolds, who was present in the office, must have taken it. Hart replied, "Ford, go up to the Queen street warehouse and see if it is in Reynolds' pile of old iron and you needn't look very sharp if you don't see it at the top, for fear you see something there that ain't a tire," laughing as he said so; they went to Reynolds' pile and found the tire; went back and reported; Reynolds said, "Get a new tire, then, and send the bill to me," and the bill was sent to Reynolds in Seyfert, McManus & Co.'s name, who paid it; a bill was also sent to Hart.

There is a large amount of testimony of this kind, showing the intimate connection among Naval Constructor Hart, Contractor McKay and the go-between, Reynolds, all of whom live in the same house, a magnificent establishment on Gerard street.

## THE CASTLE IN THE SAME BOX.

In addition to the evidence to be submitted to the committee in connection with the McKay swindling important testimony will be produced implicating the Cattells in fat contracts, the profits of which, it is alleged, they shared with the Secretary of the Navy, and it is expected that the operations of Dell, Noblit & Co., of this city, in the way of furnishing government supplies, will receive a thorough scrutiny. A subpoena was to-day served on A. G. Cattell, and to-morrow subpoenas will probably be served on the rest of the illustrious family. The committee will be in session at least a week, and before they go to Brooklyn, which will be the next point of investigation, they expect to have all the bottom facts in the partnership of Robeson, Cattell & Co. The committee have already succeeded in fixing upon Murtagh, of the *National Republican*, as the connecting link between Robeson and the Naval Ring, and witnesses are to be examined before them by which they expect to trace the dividends directly into his hands. Before the committee left Washington they issued a subpoena for one Snyder, who is

AN OLD ENEMY OF NORMAN WARD, and who has hunted him so persistently for the past six months that he was compelled to leave for Yokohama, on the pretence of instituting some experiments for the Japanese government. Within the past month Snyder has made his peace with Robeson, and is now, it is said, in the pay of the "Ring" to keep quiet. His story is in the hands of good witnesses, and it will be shown, it is stated before the committee, that the Congressional civil appropriation for Ward's experiments in reality was pocketed by the Secretary himself, and the actual test of the "gun bursting" defrayed from the resources of the department. This Congressional Committee will also take up an investigation which was commenced by a board of navy officers just previous to McKay's commencing his operations last September, and which was suddenly stopped just as the Board were obtaining a clew. It relates to the mysterious disappearance from the yard of two new copper pipes and the pumping machinery of the steamer Anietum. They were nearly traced to Reynolds, when he issued the threat that he would send the most inquisitive member of the Board to sea if the investigation was continued. The Engineering Department of the navy yard appears to have been the only one over which McKay did not obtain supreme control, and the result was that Chief Engineer Newell was, like Commodore Preble, relieved from duty at League Island. His correspondence with the Navy Department respecting McKay's attempted interference will be called for. About four weeks ago McKay, finding that the committee were not on his trail, made strenuous efforts to close the avenues of information, and wrote numerous letters insidiously indicating his desire to make everything all right with his recalcitrant employees. The following is a copy of a letter sent to a boss drayman at the navy yard:—

No. 1110 GERARD STREET,  
PHILADELPHIA, March 11, 1876.

DEAR SIR—Will you please send me by return mail the names of all your draymen employed by me at the navy yard? Yours,  
NAT. MCKAY.

This letter, it is needless to say, elicited no response, and when an acquaintance of both parties, meeting him on Chestnut street the other day, asked him whether he had ever received any response to this letter, McKay replied, "No, damn him; but I'll get along without him."

## ROBESON FREEDS THE COMMITTEE.

Secretary Robeson arrived in this city to-day and took rooms at the Continental, but did not register his name. The clerks, however, admitted his presence in the hotel and said that he went in and out at the private door and saw nobody except in his own apartments. When the subpoenas were served on McKay and Reynolds this evening they seemed to be expecting the summons and were aware of Robeson's visit.

## TOO MUCH MARRIED.

ARRESTED FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND COMMITTED FOR BIGAMY.

On Thursday evening Officer Kitter arrested Charles Rupp and John Bothman for acting in a very disorderly manner in front of No. 236 Frost street, Williamsburg. Yesterday morning both men were arraigned before Justice Obernier, and Rupp was discharged as he said he was only on a lark with Bothman. Bothman then claimed that he only wanted satisfaction from the man who resided in the house in front of which he was arrested for living wrongfully with his first wife. This plea did not avail him, and he was sentenced to twenty-nine days in jail for disturbing the peace. Mrs. Amalie Bothman then stepped forward and accused him of bigamy, presented in support of her charge articles of separation between him and herself dated April 30, 1870, on account of her alleged misconduct, and a certificate of his marriage with one Minnie Hensel by Rev. F. Koerner, of St. Paul's Lutheran church, Williamsburg, dated May 31, 1874. When interrogated Bothman said that William Bechel, the lawyer who drew up the articles of separation, told him he was divorced and could marry again, and that he had done so, but that when his new wife had read the papers in the morning after he married her she ran away, and he had not seen her since. Justice Obernier then deemed the case of more importance than one of disorderly conduct, issued a commitment for his examination on the charge of bigamy for the 18th inst.

## POOLS ON THE UNIVERSITY RACE.

Comparatively few pools were sold or betting done last night on the Oxford and Cambridge regatta, which takes place to-day. The latest betting from London being so much in favor of the Cambridge crew a few damper on the pool selling and betting up town, as few were willing to give odds demanded, and those anxious to bet on Oxford could not get as good odds as they thought themselves entitled to. A few auction pools were sold at Thomson's, No. 1,229 Broadway, at the odds of 100 to 50 on Cambridge. French pools were sold both on No. 1,229 Broadway and at the Turf Exchange, in West Twenty-ninth street. The pools sold at the former place were thirty on Oxford against forty on Cambridge, and at the latter place twenty to thirty on Oxford.

## FALL FROM A WINDOW.

Caroline Gabel, four years old, fell from the top floor window of the five story house, No. 88 Willis street, and was fatally injured yesterday afternoon.

## WASHINGTON.

Peculiar Interpretation of Justice  
by Mr. Page, of California.

## THE INTEREST OF THE INDIAN RING.

Rumor of Bristow's Resignation Among  
the Gossips and Lobbyists.

## AN EXPLANATION BY SECRETARY ROBESON.

General Meigs at Issue with a  
Moth Exterminator.

## FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 7, 1876.

REPRESENTATIVE PAGE AND HIS IMPERINENT QUESTION—THE WITNESS REQUIRED TO TELL WHO EXPRESSED THAT VERY NATURAL OPINION—A PICTURESQUE ATTEMPT AT REVENGE.

Congressman Page presented his case to the full Indian Committee this morning; but, notwithstanding he had concluded to drop the matter yesterday on the advice of the other members, to-day it was decided to give the correspondent one more chance to reveal business secrets. A resolution or some similar paper was drawn up and offered in behalf of Mr. Page that the correspondent be requested to give the name of the man alleged to have stated that he believed, from what he saw and heard, that Mr. Page was working in the interest of the Indian Ring. In case the witness refused to reveal the source of his information he is to be discharged from attendance upon the committee. It is said that Mr. Page was strongly in favor of withholding the witness fees if the correspondent did not tell the name of his informant; but Mr. Boone, a fair dealing gentleman, and others were of the opinion that the witness was entitled to be paid from the date of the subpoena, and precedents were cited in support of that view.

According to Mr. Page's interpretation of justice the correspondent should be excluded from the committee room during future examinations. To be consistent he should exclude the chairman, with whom the correspondent agrees in saying that extensive frauds have been committed, and that witnesses should be treated courteously if they behave themselves and do not seek by falsehood to whitewash the ring. Mr. Page has had a great deal to say about evidence and law, and as strong intimates that only legal testimony should be received, such as would be taken in a regular court of law, but he has nothing to say of his own personal violations of all legal rules for conducting an examination. Leading questions, irrelevant queries and browbeating have characterized his cross-examination of witnesses whose testimony interfered with the theory that a man must be pure and good because he was a friend of Smith, Delano & Co. When Mr. Page found a witness who was determined to tell the truth as he knew it and would not quail before Page's frowns, he appealed to the committee and argued with them until the chairman arose in honest indignation and exclaimed:—"Mr. Page, you cannot bully this committee; witnesses shall be protected and the truth shall come out."

RUMORED RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY BRISTOW  
AND A VARIETY OF EXPLANATIONS BY THE  
GOSSIPS—THE CAUSE OF HIS TRIP TO  
LOUISVILLE.

The lobbies of the House this afternoon and the hotels this evening were full of the rumor that Secretary Bristow had or was to resign the Treasury portfolio in the Cabinet, and that his retirement to Louisville, whither he went last Tuesday evening, was to enable him to tender his resignation more gracefully and with less embarrassment than would have attended so serious a step in Washington city. This rumor, taken for fact by many, was enlarged by the gossip mongers with an extravagant addition to the effect that in withdrawing from the Cabinet he was to stand for the democratic nomination at St. Louis. Yet another version of the matter was that Secretary Bristow had taken umbrage at a recent enlightening editorial in the *National Republican*, which is looked upon as President Grant's immediate organ, and that he could not, consistently with his self-respect, remain in the Cabinet since its publication. Still another version had it that Mr. Bristow received an intimation from the President that he would be appointed Minister to England, and that he went to Kentucky to adjust his business and domestic affairs preparatory to a long residence abroad.

On the other hand, intimate friends of Mr. Bristow assert positively to-night that there is not a word of truth in any of these reports. They say that he has gone home to Louisville for a few days' rest, and that his departure was quite sudden and without premeditation. It happened in this wise:—About a week ago Mr. Harlan, his former law partner in Louisville, called upon him at the Treasury, and during the conversation Mr. Bristow complained that he was greatly fatigued, that he had been up early and late every day. It will be remembered that in the morning he has been quite frequently before the committees at the House either as a witness or to be heard on the subject of appropriations and Treasury business generally. At night he has been pursued to his house at the latest hours on matters connected with his office. At this recital Mr. Harlan said, "Why not go back to Louisville with me and take some rest?"

Mr. Bristow considered a moment and said, "So I will if I can get a sleeping berth on the rail."

According to the arrangement which was heretofore entered into Mr. Harlan proceeded to New York to transact some business he had there, and on the way back by the Pennsylvania Contract line was to be joined by Mr. Bristow at Harrisburg. It so happened, however, that the latter failed to secure the desired sleeping berth on the road he first intended to go West by, and, as a consequence, did not meet Mr. Harlan until he reached Cincinnati. Despatches published here to-day say that Mr. Bristow reached home yesterday morning. This appears to be all there is to the resignation, so far as it is indicated by his departure from Washington.

A PROPOSITION TO PLACE A MAJOR GENERAL  
AT THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

A proposition to transfer Major General Schofield, now commanding the Military Division of the Pacific, to West Point, and make him superintendent of that institution, is discussed at army headquarters. It is felt that an officer of the rank of Major General should be properly at the head of so important a military establishment, in view not only of the dignity of the station itself but of the courtesies its commandant is under the necessity frequently of extending to visiting magnates. The subject has been broached not from any fault with Colonel Ruger or the present conduct of affairs at West Point. General Schofield is one of the most scholarly officers in the army, and fully capable of assuming the double part of instructor and commandant.

## POSTAL FACILITIES FOR THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

Mr. Vail, Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, says that arrangements have been made by the Post Office Department that all letters addressed to the Centennial Branch Post Office will go direct to the Centennial Station. This is intended as an accommodation to visitors, so that they can receive their mail there while visiting the Centennial Exposition.

## GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, April 7, 1876.

WAR DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES—GENERAL COWAN ON DETECTIVE BELL'S STATEMENT—THE STORY OF A MOTH EXTERMINATOR—A QUESTION OF VERACITY BETWEEN THE INVENTOR AND GENERAL MEIGS.

The Committee on Expenditures in the War Department to-day examined the credit of General C. Cowan, who was Assistant Secretary of the Interior till March 14. He testified that he gave Detective Bell the card produced by the Secretary of the Interior yesterday, upon the

representation by him that he had been employed by "the folks at the White House" and was entitled to his per diem and allowances; knowing that Bell had been appointed upon a card from the President he believed him for that reason; witness did not know how much he was entitled to nor did he certify to the accuracy of the accounts; it was the duty of the proper officers of the department to examine into that; Bell said he did not, under the circumstances, want to tell Le Barnes, Chief of the Secret Service of the Interior Department, what service he was performing; witnesses had never been spoken to by the President, Harbock or Bell either about the appointment or Bell's pay; he had not communicated with either of them on the subject of his appointment or pay at any time.

David Webster, of Concord, N. H., testified that he came to Washington about the 13th of March, 1874, to sell to the War Department a moth exterminator made by him; he went with Austin T. Pike, a member of Congress from New Hampshire, to General Meigs, Quartermaster General, who refused to have anything to do with it; Congress had appropriated \$30,000 for the purpose of keeping moths out of cloth and clothing for the army; witness and Pike went a second and third time to General Meigs; the third time General Meigs said the government had been swindled out of hundreds and thousands of dollars—\$200,000 last year—and the stuff they were using was furnished by George A. Cowles & Co.; after-ward witness got Representatives Parker, Cragin and Wadleigh to write a letter to Meigs, whereupon General Meigs agreed to test the merits of the stuff; the preparation was tested and approved by Captain Rogers, of the Quartermaster's Department at Philadelphia Arsenal; witness then went back to General Meigs, who told him that he should have the contract; Meigs asked him the price and how much the government would want; witness said he did not know how much the government would want, but said he would not require the department to pay for more than was used; witness afterward stated the price by letter; Meigs then decided to use it; General Meigs then asked him:—

"What benefit will it be to me?"

Witness answered—"It will kill your moths."

General Meigs said—"But how much will you give me if I put it in general use?"

Witness answered—"Not a damned cent, General."

Witness and General Meigs gave him to understand that Cowles & Co., who were furnishing the moth exterminator, were paying him part of the proceeds; witness said that yesterday he met a man near Judiciary square, who told him he would do better not to go before the committee; in the man's hand were two \$100 bills; he did not know the man, but told him that he was going to tell the truth to the committee, and that he did not want any money; the man turned and walked off rapidly; witness followed the man to see where he went, but could not walk fast enough; to-day a man by the name of Ingham Coryell came up to him in a store on Seventh street; Coryell is in the Quartermaster's Department at Seventh street wharf; Coryell said that up to three days ago he believed that Ingalls and others were in the moth ring, and that Meigs was innocent; that they had got Cowles & Co. out of the country to prevent them giving testimony, but that within three days he had become convinced that Meigs was the corrupt party in the transaction; witness had not paid money to any officer, or been asked for any, except Meigs; witness presented a number of letters to corroborate his statement; he had never received any order from General Meigs for the moth exterminator, except one for \$100 worth; witness refused to furnish that amount unless he could be assured of larger orders, on the ground that to fill the order would cost more than it would come to, but he offered to furnish it for nothing, provided he be allowed to pack it in the clothing himself. Quartermaster General Meigs appeared before the committee in obedience to a telegraphic summons, and testified that the statements of David Webster this morning to the effect that he sought an interest in his moth exterminator, by suggestion of any kind that could be tortured into such a suspicion, were absolutely false; he said he never told Webster that the government was swindled out of large sums because the process then in use was worthless; that he had never asked him what benefit the contract would be to him, and that he had never asked him how much he would give him (the witness); he had always considered the witness, like many inventors, crazy on the subject of his preparation for exterminating moths; witnesses said that Webster had offered to furnish \$100 worth of the moth exterminator, provided he be allowed to use it himself; witness declined to permit him to go into the arsenal and handle the clothing, because he did not know enough about him; he has considered him honest, but "rather light in the head," and had never inquired into his character; witness did not want outsiders in the arsenal, because it was a dangerous policy to admit them; witness corroborated generally the other statements of Webster from the record, but pronounced his charges false in every particular—the creation of a very active and imaginative brain.

DURING THE TIME GENERAL MEIGS WAS GIVING HIS  
TESTIMONY WEBSTER WAS WALKING AROUND VERY MUCH EXCITED,  
LEANING OVER THE SHOULDERS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE  
AND PROPOSING QUESTIONS, MUCH TO THE AMUSEMENT  
OF EVERYBODY PRESENT. THE WITNESS WAS ASKED WHO WAS  
THE MAN WHO PREPARED FOR EXTERMINATING MOths;  
WITNESSES SAID THAT WEBSTER HAD OFFERED TO FURNISH \$100  
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TICULAR—THE CREATION OF A VERY ACTIVE AND IMAGINATIVE  
BRAIN.

## ACCOUNTS OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Secretary Robeson has formally replied to certain interrogatories of Representative Beebe, the Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department. He says that no time bills, drafts, checks, notes, or acceptances have been issued, made, or given by or under the authority of the Navy Department or any of its bureaus or officers, except such drafts as have been given from time to time, drawn by the paymasters of the navy on foreign stations, in order to supply themselves with funds for the purpose of paying the expenses of the naval service abroad. These drafts are drawn by the various paymasters stationed abroad either directly upon the department or upon the naval fiscal agents in London, and are drawn at sight or demand, or at such times as such paymasters may think best in view of the custom of the place where they are drawn, the rate of exchange at the time, or the supposed convenience of the department. They are all, in accordance with the established custom, drawn upon and paid out of the appropriation for the pay of the navy, though it is not expressed upon their face. No time bills, drafts, checks, notes or acceptances have been given in anticipation of or in advance of appropriations available to meet the same, though it is possible that near the end of a fiscal year necessary and extraordinary expenses might be incurred on distant stations of which the department might not be informed and for which sufficient means might not therefore be reserved.

After giving further information on this subject the Secretary says it does not seem possible to meet the obligation of the department—namely, to pay according to law until the appropriation is exhausted, without at some point using the credit of the government to cover the time necessary spent in the adjustment of the accounts and in receiving returns from distant stations. Such has been the custom of the department since the naval service first existed—certainly since our fiscal agency was first established in London, more than sixty years ago, and the arrangements with our agents there, at that time and even since, have been the same and have contemplated the fact of their being at times in advance of the department. No drafts have been drawn upon any officer of the Navy Department other than the Secretary of the Navy since December 1, 1874, except upon the department's fiscal agents in London in accordance with the agreement with them. No commissions have been allowed or paid on the drafts made by the Paymaster General (Mr. Bradford) residing in London, or other officers upon the Secretary of the Navy; but drafts drawn by the paymasters on foreign stations on the fiscal agents in London are liable, under the agreement with them, to a commission not exceeding one per cent, which was Assistant Secretary of the Interior till March 14. He testified that he gave Detective Bell the card produced by the Secretary of the Interior yesterday, upon the

letter, it also appears that they allow interest at the rate of four per cent per annum for all moneys and balances of the department so long as the same shall remain in their hands, and the department agrees to allow interest at the rate of five per cent on all accounts for which the firm are at any time in advance to the department by reason of the payment of its bills and drafts, so long and to the extent that they shall remain so in advance.

The committee will probably summon the Secretary before it to be further interrogated on the subject.

ARMY DEMORALIZATION—THE SYSTEM OF  
"GREASING" AS ELUCIDATED BY SECRETARY  
TAPP—GENERAL REYNOLDS' HOUSE AND LOT.

The Secretary of War has reported to the House of Representatives, for the information of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, in response to the request of the chairman of that committee for all papers and information relating to certain charges preferred against Colonel MacKenzie by Colonel Reynolds, that the correspondence between Reynolds and MacKenzie about corn contracts at Fort Richardson, Texas, in 1871, and subsequent charges against Colonel MacKenzie by Colonel Reynolds were forwarded to the War Department by General Sheridan December 15, 1871, returned to the headquarters of the Military Division of the Missouri in January, 1872, but cannot now be found. The papers transmitted by the Secretary included General McCook's report as special inspector for the Division of the South, made in November, 1871, and dated San Antonio, Texas. He said his attention had repeatedly been called to the general demoralization that existed in the administration of the quartermaster's department, and that there was a system in vogue called "greasing," which means no less than that quartermasters or their employees must either have an interest in contracts made, or they must be rewarded by presents of greater or less value to the recipients of contracts, or act unjustly toward competitors in order to secure the same for some favorite who would consent to resort to such corrupting and dishonorable practices. He stated, among other things, that Wicher & Adams, the largest contractors in the State, presented to Mrs. Reynolds, the wife of General Reynolds, a house and lot in San Antonio, Texas. General McCook said it would be interesting to know how many carriages and horses were given to army officers as presents by citizens engaged in furnishing army supplies; and he condemned such practices as calculated to have a demoralizing influence generally on that branch of the service. It appears from the documents that General Reynolds, in December, 1871, denied to the War Department the truth of the charges that the public interests in Texas had been sacrificed to those of contractors. The Secretary declined, as General Reynolds requested, to give the reason why General Reynolds was relieved of his command in Texas, as information in such cases was unusual.

ATTORNEY GENERAL PIERCEPORT AND MARSHALL  
O. ROBERTS' CLAIM.

The Attorney General to-day said that he had seen stated in the *Chicago Times* that in 1866 he effected the sale of two steamers to the government for \$100,000, belonging to Marshall O. Roberts, of New York. He says he never negotiated or aided in the negotiation of sale of anything, steamer or otherwise, to the government at any time. That eleven or twelve years ago, and prior to that time and subsequently, he was the counsel of Marshall O. Roberts, of New York. In 1864 or 1865, during the war, he heard that a price had been sold two steamers to the government at a price paid upon by an appraisal by Moses Taylor, William E. Dodge and officers appointed by the government. He never heard of the negotiation or sale until subsequent thereto, when he was employed as counsel to get the purchase money remaining unpaid. For this he received a very moderate fee, and this is all that he ever had to do with the case.

THE CADETSHIP SELLER OF FLORIDA—DAMAG-  
ING TESTIMONY INTRODUCED.

The Civil Service Committee investigating the charges against Mr. Furman had several witnesses before them to-day.

R. F. Cowart testified that Isadore Blumenthal, Collector of the port at Cedar Key, Fla., told him that he had paid Furman \$500 "blood money" for his appointment as Collector.

Messrs. Kendig and Pond testified to being present when the above conversation took place between Cowart and Blumenthal and confirmed the statement of Cowart.

George E. Fowler, of Florida, was recalled and testified that Furman said to him a few days after his election that it had cost him over \$5,000 clear cash to get elected and he was going to have some of this money back before he started for Washington. Furman said—"An old fellow (meaning Simpson) at Monticello wants a naval cadetship for his son. If he expects me to get a place for his son, the old chap has got to pay me for it